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# GAIN Report

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## India

### Agricultural Situation

### Monsoon Progress Report No. 1

**2005**

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**Report Highlights:**

This year's monsoon is more crucial than usual as water levels in the country's irrigation reservoirs are only 92 percent of the ten-year average. Furthermore, the government's grain reserves are also at their lowest level during the past twelve years (17.4 million tons on April 1, 2005, compared to 20 million tons a year ago). Early monsoon forecasts differ and have created confusion among farmers.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
New Delhi [IN1]  
[IN]

### Southwest Monsoon Advances to Kerala

This year's monsoon is more crucial than usual as water levels in the country's irrigation reservoirs are only 92 percent of the ten-year average. Furthermore, the government's grain reserves are also at their lowest level during the past twelve years (17.4 million tons on April 1, 2005, compared to 20 million tons a year ago).

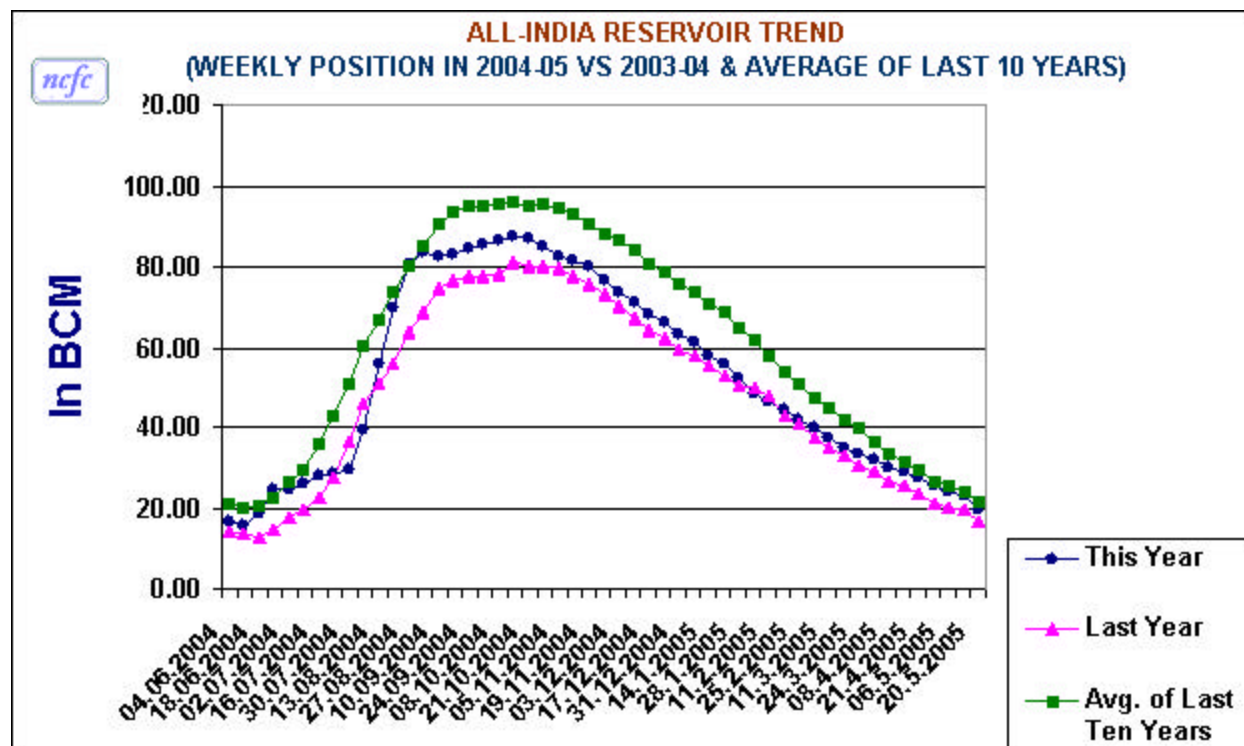
According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), the southwest monsoon advanced into Kerala, the southernmost state of the country, on June 5, 2005, a delay of about four days from its normal arrival date. Earlier, the IMD had predicted a one-week delay in the arrival of monsoon over Kerala.

The IMD's operational forecast for the 2005 southwest monsoon season (June-September) is that rainfall for the country as a whole is likely to be 98 percent of the Long Period Average (LPA) of 88 cms with a model error of + or - 5 percent. The forecast model indicated a 75 percent probability for a near or above normal southwest monsoon rainfall this year for the country as a whole. (see [www.imd.ernet.in/section/nhac/dynamic/lrf.htm](http://www.imd.ernet.in/section/nhac/dynamic/lrf.htm))

IMD will issue a Long Range Forecast update by the end of June 2005, when forecasts for four broad homogenous regions of India also will be released.

The Center for Mathematical Modeling and Computer Simulation, a research body under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, forecasts a 34 percent deficiency in rainfall in June, a 12 percent deficiency in July, and a 13 percent excess rainfall in August. It is yet to give its forecast for the month of September (see [www.cmmacs.ernet.in/cmmacs/forecast/2005/monsoon2005.html](http://www.cmmacs.ernet.in/cmmacs/forecast/2005/monsoon2005.html)). If this prediction proves to be correct, planting operations for most crops during the *kharif* (fall and early winter harvested crops), which include mostly rice, coarse grains, peanut, soybeans, cotton, and sugarcane, would likely to be adversely affected.

With only one third of the total crop area under assured irrigation, Indian agriculture is largely dependent on rains of the southwest monsoon. The southwest monsoon provides 80 percent of India's annual precipitation and is critical to the development of India's major crops like rice, coarse grains, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, and sugarcane. It also impacts planting of *rabi* (winter) season crops like wheat, pulses, and rapeseed, by insuring adequate soil moisture at planting time in the fall.



Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.